

Join the Great Backyard Bird Count

at Fort Clatsop



Bring your family, friends, binoculars, and field guide books to Fort Clatsop and participate in the 13th annual Great Backyard Bird Count. The count, an international event created and sponsored by the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, lets citizen scientists—you—record and contribute valuable information about how the distribution and abundance of birds are changing through time. Last year, participants in the United States and Canada turned in more than 94,000 checklists online at www.birdcount.org, creating the continent's largest instantaneous snapshot of bird populations ever recorded. Your list, short or long, helps.

From Friday, February 12 through Monday, February 15, visitors to Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, Fort Clatsop can learn about participating in the count, record bird numbers in the park and make plans to count birds in their own backyards. There will be ranger-guided opportunities for visitors to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count in the park from Friday through Monday. Binoculars are available for loan to use during the counts.



Along with the actual bird counting activities, the park is planning four days of bird-related opportunities. Join us on Friday at 2:00 as artist Karl Haugen teaches a bird sketching free mini-workshop in the visitor center. Karl's wildlife paintings will be displayed in the visitor center throughout this event.

On Saturday, February 13, Astoria High School science teacher and local birder Lee Cain will lead a birding walk starting at 9:00 a.m. at the Visitor Center lobby. Although leashed dogs are welcome at most of the park's outdoor programs, they are not allowed at this morning walk. Also on Saturday from 10:00 am to 3:00 p.m., a bird-themed children's crafts and education corner will be available in the visitor center.

On Sunday, February 14, the Wildlife Center of the North Coast will share a presentation at 1:00 pm in the Netul River Room of the Visitor Center. Sharnelle Fee founded the Wildlife Center of the North Coast eleven years ago, offering people who find injured wildlife in the area a helpful resource. Fee and some of the center's volunteers will bring some of their education animals to the program. The Center has an owl, a common murre, a peregrine falcon, and a pelican to augment the center's educational presentations. The program will cover some of the dangers that wildlife face in this area, the work of the Wildlife Center of the North Coast, and how people can help local wildlife. Bird-themed children's crafts will be available at 10:00 a.m.–noon and 2:30 p.m.–4:00 p.m. in the visitor center.



Monday, February 15's Presidents' Day visitors will find the bird-themed crafts and education corner available from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. as well as rangers to assist with bird identification and counts.

Park hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. Activities associated with the Great Backyard Bird Count are all free. A variety of bird field guides are available for purchase at the Lewis & Clark National Park Association bookstore in the Fort Clatsop Visitor Center.

For more information on the national bird count event and the organizations behind the event, or to submit bird counts from your home: go to www.birdcount.org. The weekend's birding events at Fort Clatsop are sponsored by the Lewis & Clark National Park Association and the National Park Service. For more information, call the park at (503) 861-2471.